

## 01 START IF CHILD SOUNDS VERY UNWELL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ARE REPORTED:

- Abnormal temperature
- Appears to be breathing more quickly or slowly than normal
- Altered mental state – include sleepy, irritable, drowsy or floppy
- Abnormally pale / bluish skin or abnormally cold hands or feet
- Reduced wet nappies or reduced urine output

### RISK FACTORS FOR SEPSIS INCLUDE:

- Impaired immunity (e.g. diabetes, steroids, chemotherapy)
- Indwelling lines / broken skin
- Recent trauma / surgery / invasive procedure

NO

**SEPSIS UNLIKELY, CONSIDER OTHER DIAGNOSIS**

## 02 COULD THIS BE DUE TO AN INFECTION?

YES

### LIKELY SOURCE:

- Brain
- Surgical
- Other
- Respiratory
- Urine
- Skin / joint / wound
- Indwelling device

NO

**SEPSIS UNLIKELY, CONSIDER OTHER DIAGNOSIS**

## 03 ANY RED FLAG PRESENT?

YES

- No response to social cues
- Doesn't wake when roused / won't stay awake
- Weak, high-pitched or continuous cry
- Grunting or bleating noises with every breath
- Finding it much harder to breathe than normal
- Very fast breathing / 'pauses' in breathing
- Skin that's very pale, mottled, ashen or blue
- Rash that doesn't fade when pressed firmly
- Temperature <36°C (check 3 times in 10 min)
- If under 3 months, temperature ≥ 38°C

YES

**RED FLAG SEPSIS START BUNDLE**

## 04 ANY AMBER FLAG PRESENT?

NO

### IF IMMUNITY IMPAIRED TREAT AS RED FLAG SEPSIS

- Not responding normally / no smile
- Parental concern
- Wakes only with prolonged stimulation
- Significantly decreased activity
- Having to work hard to breathe
- Poor feeding in infants
- Reduced urine output
- Leg pain
- Cold feet or hands

YES

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND REVIEW REQUIRED:

**- ARRANGE URGENT FACE-TO-FACE ASSESSMENT USING CLINICAL JUDGEMENT TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE CLINICAL ENVIRONMENT**

## NO AMBER FLAGS: GIVE SAFETY-NETTING ADVICE:

**CALL 111 IF CONDITION CHANGES OR DETERIORATES. SIGNPOST TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES AS APPROPRIATE**

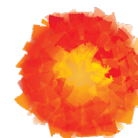
**CALL 999 IF ANY OF:**

**Is breathing very fast  
Has a 'fit' or convulsion  
Looks mottled, bluish or pale  
Has a rash that does not fade when you press it  
Is very lethargic or difficult to wake  
Feels abnormally cold to touch**

## TELEPHONE TRIAGE BUNDLE:

**THIS IS TIME-CRITICAL – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED: DIAL 999 AND ARRANGE BLUE LIGHT TRANSFER**

**COMMUNICATION: Ensure communication of 'Red Flag Sepsis' to crew Advise crew to pre-alert as 'Red Flag Sepsis'**



THE UK SEPSIS TRUST